

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IC

SUBJECT: FURTHER ARTICLES ON "UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM"

REF: REYKJAVIK 0978

1. IN JULY 19 FOLLOW-UP TO ARTICLES ON "UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM" DAILY DAGBLADID CARRIED FURTHER ARTICLE CONTAINING STATEMENT BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER BENDIKT GRONDAL. ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS:

"THE REASON I AM RAISING THIS NOW IS PRIMARILY BECAUSE THERE IS MUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT SUCH A DEFENSE SYSTEM ABROAD AND THE DEFENSE OF THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION FOLLOWING OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE COD WAR.' HE THINKS IT IS COMPLETELY INDEFENSIBLE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GET FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER ESPECIALLY SINCE THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT ABROAD. HE MENTIONED THIS MATTER PREVIOUSLY AFTER HE HAD SEEN AN

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ARTICLE ABOUT UNDERWATER SYSTEMS OFF THE ICELANDIC

COAST IN THE YEAR BOOK OF THE PEACE INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM, AND ESPECIALLY AFTER THE PUBLICATION SEA TECHNOLOGY HAD ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS SO IN 1973. "I HAVE ASKED AS A REPORTER AND AS A MEMBER OF THE ALTHING BOTH IN THE WEST AND IN BRUSSELS ABOUT THIS MATTER BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE COMING UP AGAINST A WALL.' IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES STARTED EXPERIMENTS WITH UNDERWATER LISTENING SYSTEMS IN 1950-55 AND HAS SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON THIS. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHEN THEY SET UP THE LISTENING SYSTEM AROUND THIS COUNTRY BUT AS WE HAVE HEARD IN THE NEWS MANY TIMES, CABLE SHIPS FROM THE AMERICAN FLEET HAVE BEEN SEEN OFF OUR COAST. THE ONLY TIME IT IS KNOWN THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE ADMITTED ANYTHING ALONG THIS LINE WAS WHEN A FISHING BOAT FROM HOFN CAUGHT ITS TRAWL ON A CABLE, THEN THEY ADMITTED OWNING THE CABLE."

2. IN ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL, DAGBLADID COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

"NOW WE HAVE DEFINITE NEWS THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE SET UP A SYSTEM OF LISTENING CABLES FROM ICELAND. THROUGH THIS SYSTEM, THE BASE AT KEFLAVIK CAN FOLLOW THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF SOVIET SUBMARINES AND WORLD SHIPPING. THIS SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE IS NOT HERE PRIMARILY TO DEFEND ICELAND BUT RATHER THAT ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO DEFEND THE UNITED STATES WITH AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE SURVEILLANCE OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SOVIET FLEET. ICELAND IS AN OUTPOST OF THE US DEFENSE SYSTEM AND THE MORE COMPLETE THAT SYSTEM IS, THE MORE OF A LOSS IT WOULD BE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO LOSE ITS POSITION HERE. IT HAS BEEN KNOWN THAT THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SOVIET FLEET AND PLANES HAS BEEN THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE DEFENSE FORCE IN ICELAND. THUS THIS LATEST INFORMATION DOES NOT SURPRISE US BUT IT SHOWS HOW EXTENSIVE THE AMERICAN SYSTEM IS. A LOT OF MONEY HAS BEEN PUT INTO IT WHICH FURTHER SUPPORTS ESTIMATES BY NATO LEADERS THAT IT WOULD COST THE UNITED STATES FOUR THOUSAND BILLION KRONUR TO REPLACE THE LOSS OF FACILITIES IN ICELAND."

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